

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EI, US
SUBJECT: DR. & MRS. GAUER

REF: EUR/NE SCHALLER-REND AHL TELCON

1. SENATOR EAGLETON'S TRANSMISSION OF THE GAUER COMPLAINT WAS VIA CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS DATED OCT 10, 1977. EMBASSY SENT NOVEMBER 17 AN INTERIM REPLY BY MEMO TO "H" MERELY STATING THE EMBASSY WAS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. A SECOND MEMO FROM DCM TO "H" DATED NOVEMBER 29 REPORTED THAT THE ALIENS SECTION OF THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD INFORMED US THAT ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND HAD ALSO RECEIVED A COMPLAINT FROM ANOTHER SOURCE ON BEHALF OF DR. & MRS. GAUER. WE WERE TOLD THAT A REPLY TO THIS SEPARATE-CHANNEL COMPLAINT WAS ABOUT TO BE ISSUED AND THUS THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND TO THE INQUIRY FROM THE EMBASSY.

2. APPARENTLY THIS SEPARATE-CHANNEL RESPONSE DID NOT EFFECTIVELY DISPOSE OF THE MATTER. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE THE CONSULAR OFFICER'S VERBATIM NOTES AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH MR. STEVE MAGNER OF THE:
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ALIEN SECTION OF THE IRISH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON MARCH 2, 1978.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: APPARENTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED IN DR. GAUER'S LETTER, MRS. GAUER HAD BEEN SO UPSET SHE HAD TELEPHONED PRESIDENT HILLERY'S OFFICE. IN REPLY, EITHER THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

HIMSELF OR HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY HAD WRITTEN ON DECEMBER 23RD. MR. MAGNER SAID HE BELIEVED FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD ALSO WRITTEN TO HER, AND THE IRISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HAD ALSO BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH CONGRESSMAN COLEMAN AND SENATOR EAGLETON ABOUT THE CASE.

4. DR. AND MRS. GAUER ON THEIR ARRIVAL IN IRELAND HAD HIRED A CAR FOR THEIR VACATION TRIP, AND WERE TOURING "AROUND." THEY HAD STOPPED NEAR A MILITARY BARRACKS IN CLONMEL AND HAD INQUIRED OF A PASSER-BY AS TO THE NATURE OF THE BUILDING. IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL SITUATION IN IRELAND, FEAR OF POSSIBLE BOMBINGS, ETC., THE PERSON TO WHOM THEY HAD SPOKEN HAD REPORTED THEIR INTEREST BOTH TO THE POLICE AND TO THE MILITARY. THE POLICE HAD THEREFORE CHECKED UP ON THE GAUERS' CAR REGISTRATION NUMBER ETC., AND THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN FLASHED AROUND SHANNON AREA. WHEN THE GAUER'S REACHED SHANNON AIRPORT A DETECTIVE THERE HAD SPOTTED THE CAR AND APPROACHED THEM. HE ASKED FOR THEIR IDENTIFICATION, AND HE SHOWED THEM HIS OWN IDENTIFICATION. HE HAD STATED IN HIS REPORT THAT WITHIN A MINUTE OR TWO HE HAD REALIZED THAT DR. AND MRS. GAUER WERE GENUINE, AND EXPLAINED THE POSITION TO THEM, BUT MRS. GAUER WAS NOT SATISFIED AND THOUGHT SHE WAS DUE A MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLETE EXPLANATION. SHE STATED SHE WAS WORRIED IN CASE THEIR NAMES MIGHT BE ON A LIST OF SUSPECTS. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED THE GAUER'S THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THAT THE INQUIRIES MADE OF THEM WERE OF A ROUTINE NATURE. THE GOI HAS ALSO APOLOGIZED TO THEM. MR. MAGNER SAID THAT IF WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A NOTE THROUGH FOREIGN AFFAIRS HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE US AN EXPLANATION IN WRITING. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: BEFORE THE EMBASSY FORMALLY APPROACHES THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR AN EXPLANATION OR APOLOGY WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT (OR SENATOR EAGLETON'S OFFICE AS APPROPRIATE) ASCERTAINS FROM THE GAUERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE EXPLANATION GIVEN TO THEM EARLIER. IT SOUNDS TO US AS THOUGH THE ENTIRE MATTER WAS GENUINELY AN ERROR AND THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT HAS AMPLY APOLOGIZED FOR THE INCIDENT. SHANNON

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